

John Boehner
Chairman
8th District, Ohio

House Meets at 10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.R. 4104—FY 1999 Treasury/Postal Appropriations Act (Rule Only)

H.R. 4112—FY 1999 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act

**H.R. 2676—Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act
(Conference Report)**



H.R. 4112—FY 1999 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act

Floor Situation: The House will consider H.R. 4112 after it completes consideration of the rule to H.R. 4104. Appropriations bills are privileged and may be considered anytime three days after they are filed; they are debatable for one hour and are subject to one motion to recommit. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted a structured rule providing for one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Appropriations Committee. The rule makes in order two amendments—by Mr. Farr and Mr. Gutierrez—to be debated in the order listed and for the amount of time specified below. In addition, the rule waives House rules prohibiting unauthorized appropriations, legislative measures in an appropriations bill, and reappropriations. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, so long as it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Summary: H.R. 4112 appropriates \$1.8 billion for the House of Representatives and other legislative branch operations—\$29.8 million more than in FY 1998. Specifically, the bill allocates (1) \$734.1 million for the House of Representatives (a \$25.1 million increase over the FY 1998 level); (2) \$89.1 million for joint functions of the House and Senate (a \$2.4 million increase over last year); and (3) \$691.2 million for related agencies, such as the Library of Congress and the non-congressional work of the Government Printing Office (a \$25.7 million increase). The bill does not include spending for the operation of the Senate. This year, the Senate has already completed

action on their version of the legislative branch appropriations, which appropriates \$469.4 million for operations of the Senate, \$8.3 million more than last year.

CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 4112 will result in discretionary outlays of \$1.6 billion in FY 1999, \$167 million in FY 2000, \$35 million in FY 2001, \$9 million in FY 2002, and \$3 million in FY 2003 and beyond. The bill was submitted by Mr. Walsh and was reported by the Appropriations Committee by voice vote on June 18, 1998.

Views: The Republican leadership supports passage of H.R. 4112. An official Clinton Administration view was unavailable at press time.

Amendments: The structured rule makes in order two amendments to H.R. 4112, to be debated in the order listed and for the amount of time specified below.

Mr. Farr may offer an amendment, debatable for 10 minutes, to clarify that \$100,000 in funding for the Architect of the Capitol's capital buildings and grounds account (funded at \$121.4 million in the bill) be made available exclusively for waste recycling programs. **Staff Contact: Rochelle Dornatt, x5-2861**

Mr. Gutierrez may offer an amendment, debatable for 10 minutes, to require the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) to establish a comprehensive energy conservation plan for congressional buildings administered by the AOC. The amendment is intended to bring AOC-administered facilities into parity with the energy conservation standards applied to federal agencies under the Federal Energy Management Program. The amendment establishes energy reduction targets (a 20 percent reduction in energy consumption levels by FY 2005) and allows the AOC to enlist private and nonprofit resources, as well as the Department of Energy's Financing Renewable Energy and Efficiency contracts program, to develop a plan to achieve those targets. The amendment also requires the architect to (1) submit a comprehensive energy conservation and management plan within 10 months of enactment; and (2) submit an appropriations request to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to carry out the plan. **Staff Contact: Mark Fine, x5-8203**

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVII, #17, June 19, 1998.



H.R. 2676—Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act (Conference Report)

Floor Situation: The House will consider the conference report to H.R. 2676 after it completes consideration of H.R. 4112. Conference reports are privileged and may be considered any time three days after they are filed; they are debatable for one hour, may not be amended, and are subject to one motion to recommit. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted a rule waiving all points of order against the conference report and its consideration (effectively waiving the requirement that committee reports be available for three days prior to floor consideration).

Summary: The conference report to H.R. 2676 makes a number of changes and reforms to current operating procedures, tax code provisions, and regulations over the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), which are intended to provide a more taxpayer-friendly agency, as well as curb tax code provisions which prove to be burdensome for taxpayers generally. Among the conference report's major provisions, it (1) shifts the burden of proof in tax liability disputes between the IRS and taxpayers from the taxpayer to the agency (which must show that the taxpayer owes the taxes deemed to be due by the agency); (2) creates an independent board to initiate and oversee changes in mission and direction to be taken by the IRS; and (3) provides an "innocent spouse" provision to guard taxpayers who, although they file jointly with a spouse, remain unaware of their tax and financial details even when they pay a deficient amount of taxes to the IRS.

Additionally, the conference report (1) requires the Treasury Secretary to develop procedures to file tax returns electronically and receive currently-required signatures on returns; (2) reduces from 18 to 12 months the amount of time that property must be held in order to qualify for lower capital gains rates; (3) creates formal written procedures with which the IRS must comply when it seeks to collect taxes by levy (including seizing property); and (4) establishes the term "normal trade relations" in place of the currently-used "most-favored-nation" status with regard to the type of trade relations that exists between the U.S. and other countries. The Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that enactment will result in savings of \$496 billion between 1998-2002. H.R. 2676 passed the House by a vote of 426-4 on November 5, 1997; the Senate passed the bill by a vote of 97-0 on May 7, 1998. The conference report to H.R. 2676 was submitted by Mr. Archer on June 24, 1998.

Views: The Republican leadership supports passage of the measure. An official Clinton Administration view was unavailable at press time.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVI, #31, Pt. III, November 4, 1997.



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Amendment
Alert!

Please attach the text of the amendment (if available) and fax to the *Legislative Digest* at x5-7298

John Boehner
Chairman
8th District, Ohio

Member Sponsoring Amendment: _____ Bill #: _____

Additional Co-sponsors (if any): _____

Staff Contact: _____ Phone #: _____ Evening Phone #: _____

Description of the amendment: _____

(Please include any additional or contextual information)

Reason for offering amendment (e.g., How will this change the bill or current law? Why should members support this change?): _____

Legislative Digest reserves the right to edit descriptions for style, readability, and provisional accuracy.

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